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Photo by Kier Smith Charlie Young greets onlookers with a wave.

Celebrities converge for charity tournament

By Ed Shepherd

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Spin, spin...

For the record, it's not about the golf, it's about the kids.

Even though some local celebrities grace our town's pages at the Twin Lakes Golf & Country Club every second Thursday in June, the head-turner event is not about the bow-tie pasta laced in a sweet, oily, red, sauce, with yellow and green tasty bits of peppers, even shrimp.

It's about...You got it, "the kids."

"One of the kids being recognized at the banquet following the golf (33rd Annual Celebrity Golf Classic with special guest, KOMO retired, longtime sports anchor, Bruce King) is a Boys and Girls Club member, Jovan Wayne. He wasn't having success in school and needed some guidance," said Shelly Puariea, the Boys & Girls Club's longtime executive director.

"For The Children" has been a creed of World Vision, the great child sponsorship and world, relief, aid and help for many years now, situated off Weyerhauser Way and Hwy. 18 in Federal Way.

Their CEO, Richard Stearns, understands that organization and its power, and, if you will, blessings, having left untold millions of Lennox CEO status and also Parker Brothers about 10 years ago now to head World Vision.

Stearns gets it, and so does the Boys and Girls Club as it, too, gets kids off the streets into shelter and upbringing with everything but, and maybe including medical care that World Vision sources to the world needs.

The celebrity golf classic benefits kids, the known names with smiling faces like former Seahawks tight end, Charlie Young, a 6-7 big guy who played football for 13 seasons and about did it all and was it all in the NFL, not to mention for USC, in the early 70's.

Benefits who? Benefits kids, like Jovan Wayne. It's for the Jovan Waynes of the world that either dropped out of high school, or, were on their way to dropping out.

Because why? Because they just couldn't get 'it,' whatever 'it' was that they needed to get, be it math, science, English, or whatever.

Get it?

Now they get it, a great loving environment from the BGC. If you don't get it, that's short for "Boys & Girls Club."

"It's someone taking an interest in them, being role models for them," said BGC Executive Director Shelly Puariea. Puariea gets it! And, she has got it for a long time, decades of long time, like Stu Kelley, who's been there decades at BGC too.

"Work in Federal Way, live in Federal Way, die in Federal Way," said Kelley, 38 years and counting a big part of the good things going on at the Boys and Girls Club.

There's EX3 Ron Sandwith Teen Center, too, which Pam Credico runs as Unit Director of this well-run BGC organization that is with 4,000 BGC clubs across the U.S.A.

Teens can go somewhere where they can go learn about things --computer stations, organized dodgeball games, air hockey, for a nominal fee per year. It's \$20/year for younger ones and for older teens it's \$36/year.

Young participated after playing three years with Chuck Knox from 83-86.

"I was the No. 1 draft choice out of USC in 1970, taken by Philadelphia. I played with some Hall of Famers -- Joe Montana, Ronny Lott, Jack Youngblood and Steve Largent."

Then there were others he played with on the Seahawks' roster.

"Yeah, I played with Curt Warner, Doctor Dan Doornink, Mani Tuiasasopo, Dave Krieg, a whole lot of great guys on the Seahawks," said Young, who was on the 1983 team that barely made it into the playoffs as a wild card team and won two games on the road, including over Dan Marino and the AFC best Miami Dolphins, that year.

But it's not about Young, it's not about King, the CGC's longtime host, who can say the same

thing every single year when the sun shines for this tournament on this important day raising money for the children of the Boys and Girls Club.

"Thirty three years without rain," said King. "Not a drop of rain. When I was working, we use to give Steve Poole the credit," said King.

Poole does KOMO's weather still today, as well as national bits too, like King did a couple years when big-time parent ABC came calling for him to be sports director of their channel back in 1980.

"It's a terrific event," said King, who, despite polio, walking with a cane, and, at times, a walker, is here for the third decade of hosting this. Because he loves the kids and knows what can happen to them without help like this? You bet!

"They (BGC) needs help," said King. "What would they be doing if they were not going to the Boys and Girls club? I can remember when I was young.. There was always an opportunity to get into trouble."

A lot of people show up for this event. Wayne came for the banquet and gave a speech. Alexa Hartman, last year's recipient of the Ben Petrich Memorial Spirit of Adventure Award, will attend Highline Community College this fall. HCC is a big supporter of BGC, with the "Building Futures" program, a youth employment services program called "YES."

The Federal Way Multi-Services center helps, too, with "Building Bridges."